

Middlebury March 16. 1839.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> of December was duly rec<sup>d</sup>.  
The Suddington case to which you referred was I  
believe referred to a Committee of the Senate. It was my  
intention to have attended to it should it come into  
the House; but no bill passed the Senate, and of  
course I have devoted no special attention to the  
matter. Should it come within my reach at a  
future time, I will, from regard to an old and  
valued friend, give to it all the useful attention  
in my power.

I intended to have answered your letter, but  
deep affliction, & the pressing cares of business prevented.  
You have, probably, ere this, heard of the death  
of my only daughter. She died the day after  
your letter to me was written; and it deeply  
aggravated my affliction that I was not with  
her during the closing scene. I left for  
Washington on the 23<sup>d</sup> of November. She had  
been troubled about two months with a cough  
and occasionally some fever; and in all felt  
some apprehensions - at times pretty strong - that



it might finally terminate fatally. When I left home she was able to sit up two or three hours in a day, and was so comfortable that it was thought best for me to go to Washington to be present at the opening of the session; but to hold myself in readiness to return should she become materially worse. But alas! I took my final leave of her. Two weeks after I left, her cough, which had gradually increased, suddenly ceased, and she died within three days. I had but just heard of the alarming change, and made preparations to come home, before I had intelligence that she was past all hope of moving; and the next mail brought me intelligence of her death. Those only who have lost an only daughter can have any adequate conception of the depth of my affliction. I forbear any attempt to describe it.

But we are permitted to have great consolation, in a recollection of the meek and humble patience with which she endured the pains & privations of her last confinements, and the calm peace which she enjoyed to <sup>the</sup> very last moment of her conflict with the king of terrors. It may be gratifying to your wife and daughter, as well as yourself to read the enclosed,



and I therefore send them. One was written by  
her brother William, and the other by a Methodist  
clergyman of this village.

I was at Canton with my wife & Jane,  
about a week after you had left. I very  
much regretted that we did not arrive in season  
to see you. We were gratified with seeing a  
letter from your wife, which informed us that  
you had got safe through Lake Ontario. We  
spent a few days very pleasantly among our friends  
in Canton from whom we parted with much  
regret.

My wife, as you may well suppose, suffered  
severely from an bereavement—aggravated as it  
was by my absence. Her health has been  
bad during the winter, but is now improving.  
She desires to be remembered affectionately to you  
all.

Your letter discoursed rather discouragingly  
about immediate prospects at Milwaukee. But  
I hope things have gone well with you, and  
that I shall hear of your future prosperity—  
especially that you prosper in things pertaining  
to that life to come into which the termination  
of this perishable state of existence will soon  
introduce you. Oh how I am uncertain



is our life. You and I have been permitted to  
pass the meridian, and are declining toward  
the grave. What we do we must do quickly.  
Heaven help us so to number our days to apply  
our hearts to wisdom - true wisdom.

I occasionally sent you papers during the  
late season which I hope you received. It  
would give me great pleasure to hear from  
you whenever you can find leisure to write.

My kind & affectionate regards to your  
wife and Eunice, and bid me to remain  
with sincere regards

Your friend

William Stoddard

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